

MARVEL

009

GILLEN
WALKER
DEERING
FABELA

STAR WARS™

DOCTOR APHRA



Part I

It is a period of opportunity. In a galaxy oppressed by Imperial forces, there is little hope for the future. But for those operating on the fringes, there is potential for profit.

Rogue archaeologist Chelli Aphra briefly teamed up with Luke Skywalker and his friends to reactivate the Rur Crystal, an artifact with the consciousness of an ancient Jedi. But when that endeavor led to them escaping only due to Luke's affinity with the force, they decide it's best to go their separate ways.

Now, still in possession of the newly-reactivated Rur crystal, it's time to get back to what Aphra does best: Get rich or die trying....

KIERON GILLEN
Writer

KEV WALKER
Penciler

MARC DEERING
Inks

ANTONIO FABELA
Colors

KAMOME SHIRAHAMA
Cover Artist

VC's JOE CARAMAGNA
Letterer

HEATHER ANTOS
Assistant Editor

JORDAN D. WHITE
Editor

C.B. CEBULSKI
Executive Editor

AXEL ALONSO
Editor In Chief

JOE QUESADA
Chief Creative Officer

DAN BUCKLEY
President

For Lucasfilm:

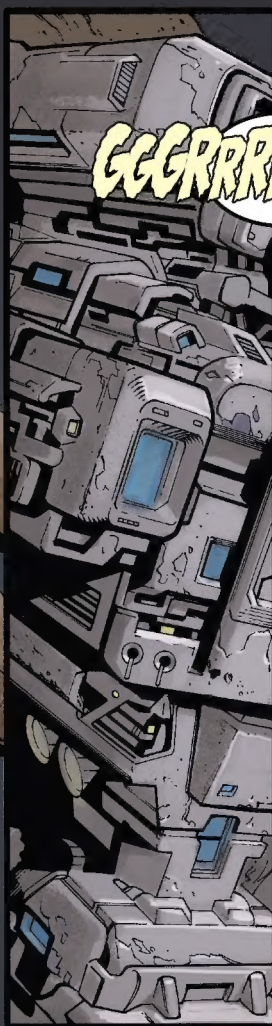
Senior Editor **FRANK PARISI**

Creative Director **MICHAEL SIGLAIN**

Lucasfilm Story Group **JAMES WAUGH, LELAND CHEE,
MATT MARTIN**

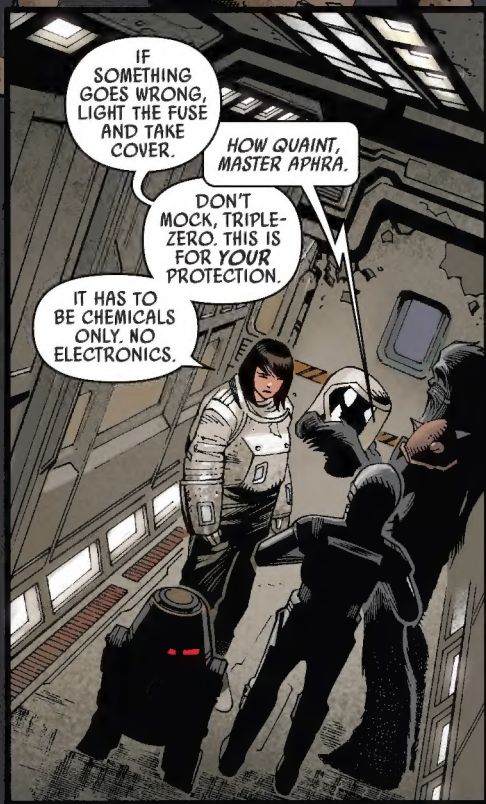


Isolate-4 Lab,
The Outer Rim.



GGRRRRRRHH?

YES,
I AM SURE
ABOUT
THIS.

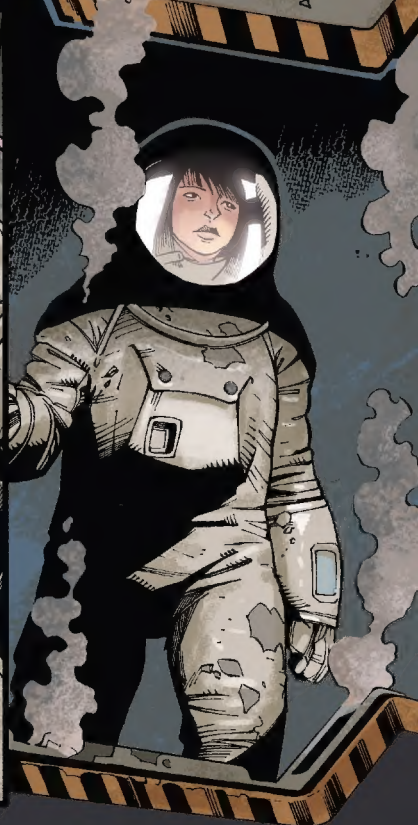
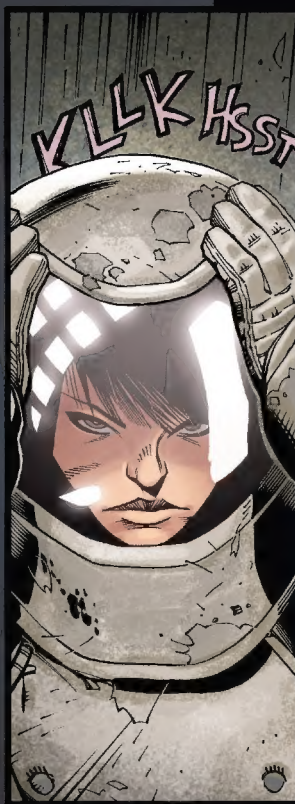


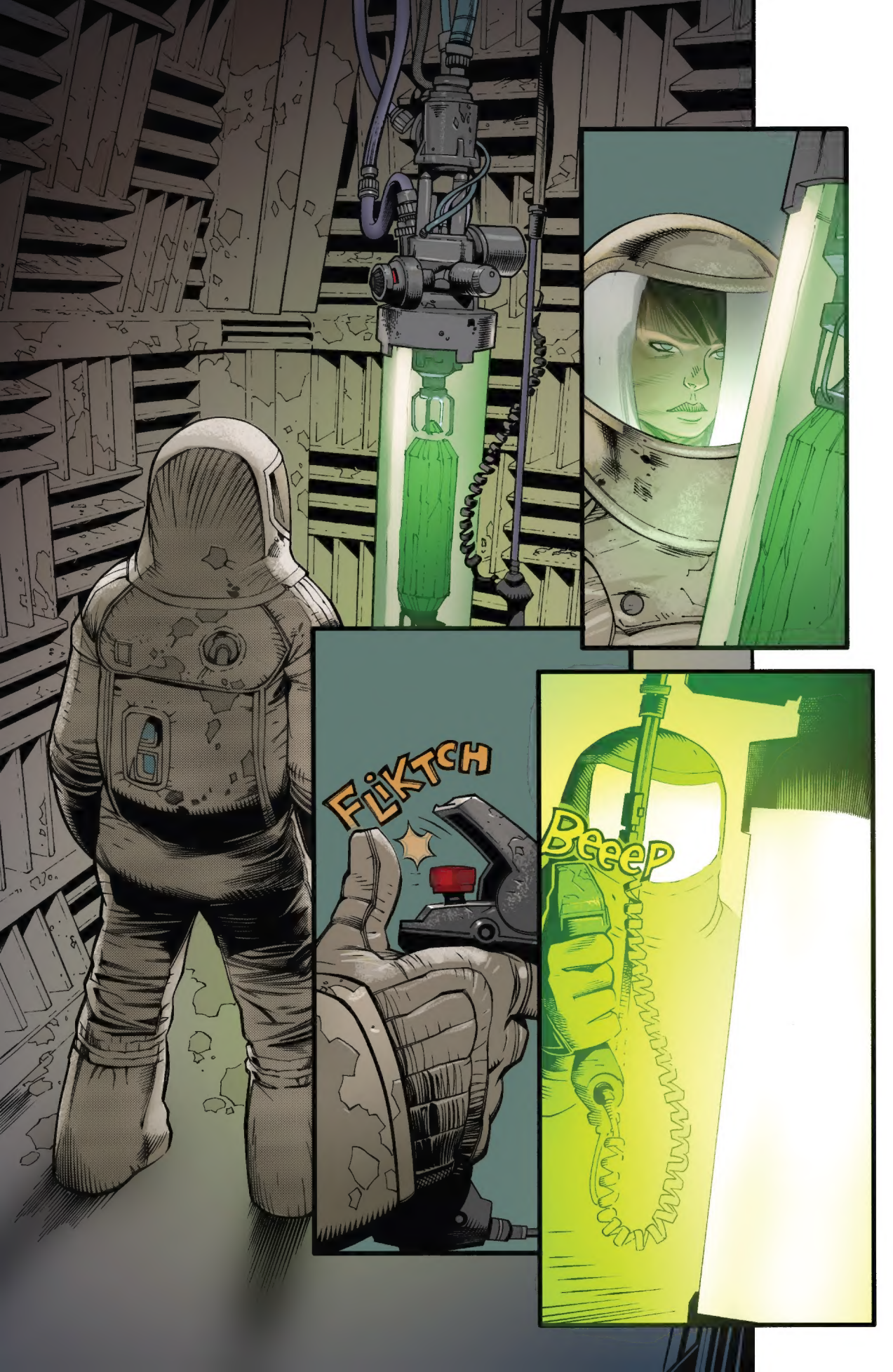
IF
SOMETHING
GOES WRONG,
LIGHT THE FUSE
AND TAKE
COVER.

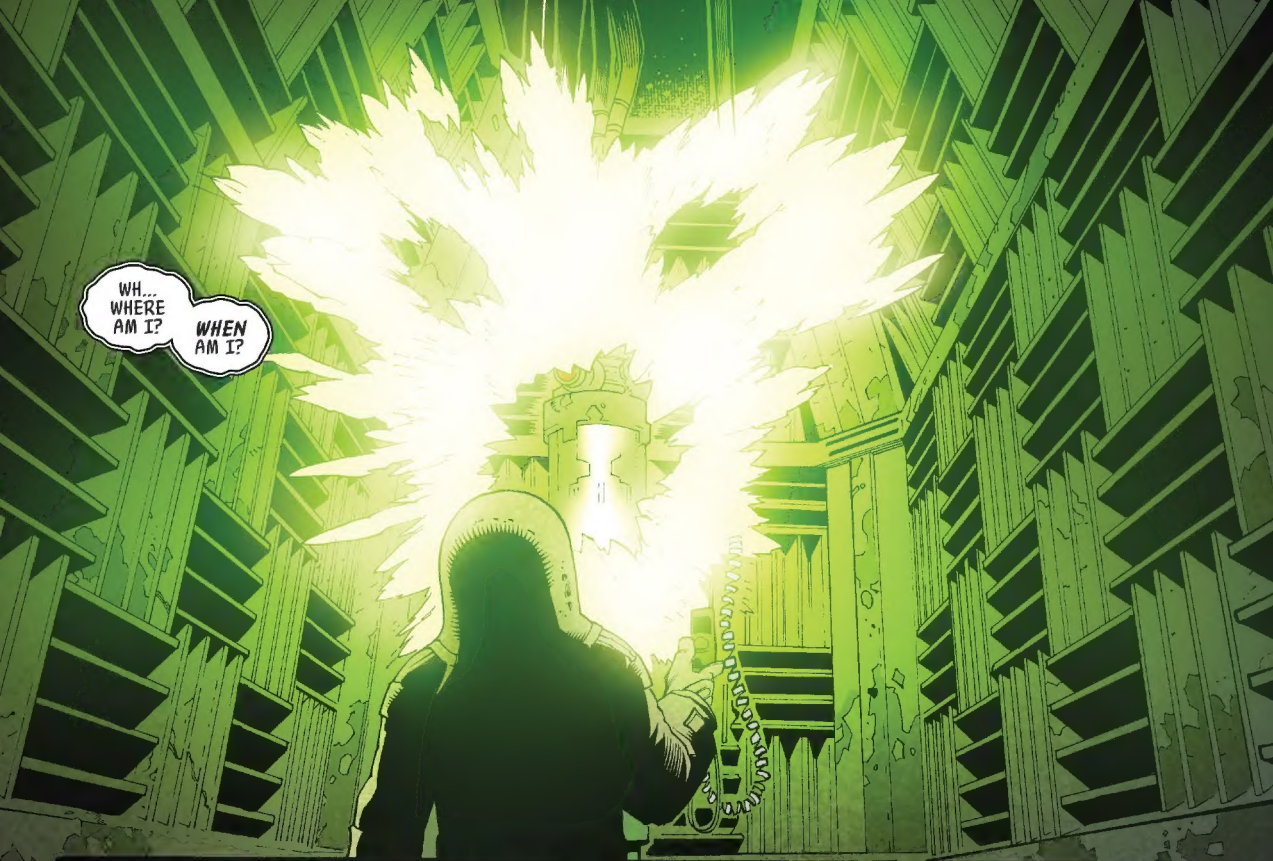
HOW QUANT,
MASTER APHRA.

DON'T
MOCK, TRIPLE-
ZERO. THIS IS
FOR YOUR
PROTECTION.

IT HAS TO
BE CHEMICALS
ONLY. NO
ELECTRONICS.







WH...
WHERE
AM I?
WHEN
AM I?



A MONTH OR TWO SINCE
YOUR CITADEL WENT
BOOM, RUR.

A FEW WEEKS SINCE THE
ALIEN QUEEN WOKE YOU UP
FOR ME...BUT *WITHOUT* YOUR
TECHNOPATHY.

I'VE GIVEN
IT BACK TO
YOU.

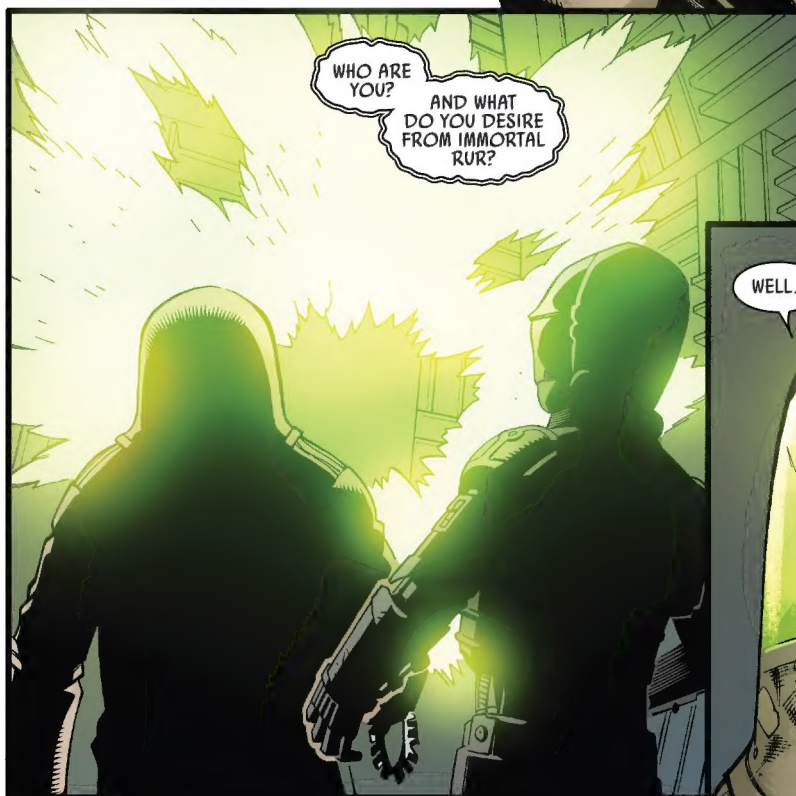
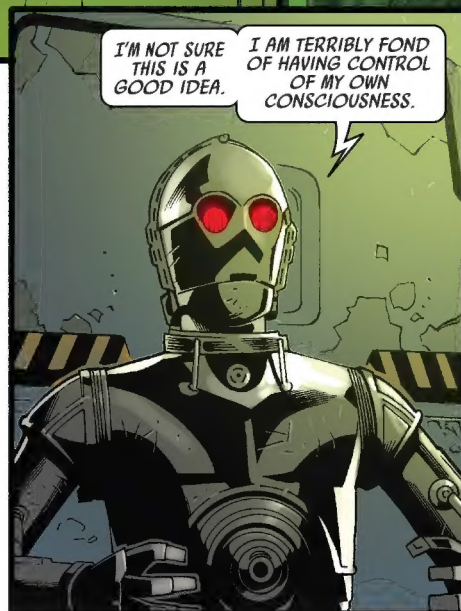


OH.
IT'S YOU.
AGAIN.

I HAVE
MY POWERS?
WELL, RUR WILL
HAVE HIS
REVENGE.



HEY,
KRRSANTAN!
ARE
THE DROIDS
OKAY?

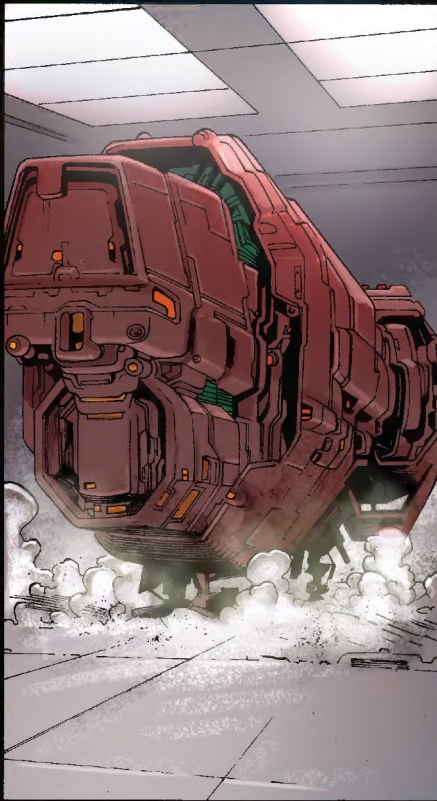


STAR WARS

DOCTOR APHRA

AND THE ENORMOUS PROFIT

The Sorca Retreat, Weeks Later...



WELCOME ABOARD,
MR. YONAK. SO
GLAD TO HAVE A
REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE PRIDE HERE.

SORRY TO HEAR
OF THE LOSS OF
YOUR DOMINION
OF SON-TUUL.

AND DON'T WORRY. WE
WOULDN'T INSULT YOU
BY INSISTING ON TAKING
YOUR WEAPONS FOR
SAFEKEEPING.

BECAUSE
YOU KNOW THE
ONLY WAY YOU'D GET
ANY OF MY BLADES IS
STRAIGHT THROUGH
YOUR HEAD.

ACCURATELY,
IF BRUSQUELY,
PUT, SIR.

THE PRESENTATION
FROM THE DOCTOR
WILL START SHORTLY.

WHY THE
PSEUDONYMS?
HELL, WHY ALL OF
THIS GLITZ AT
ALL?

FIRST TIME
I MET HER I WAS
BUYING A DROID,
IN AN ALLEYWAY,
KNEE-DEEP IN
AFT-WASTE.

WELL, MR. YONAK,
THIS IS AN EVENT
OF CONSIDERABLE
IMPORTANCE...

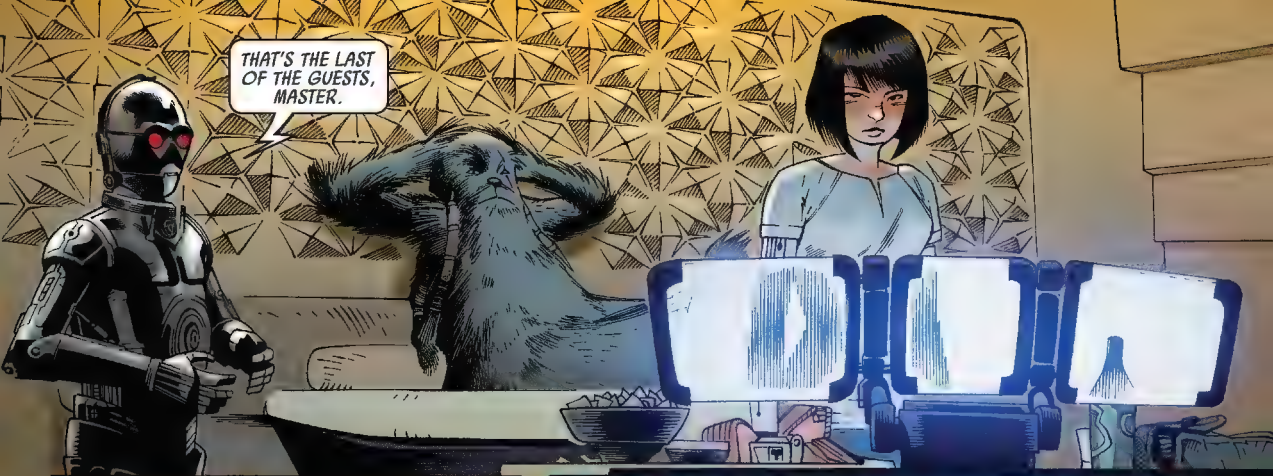


...SHE WANTED THIS
EVENING TO HAVE,
IF YOU WILL, A
LITTLE GLAMOUR.



MINGLE AND ENJOY YOUR
DRINKS, SIR.

THE DOCTOR
WILL BE WITH
YOU SHORTLY.



THAT'S THE LAST
OF THE GUESTS,
MASTER.



YEAH, I CAN
SEE. AND A FINE
SELECTION OF THE
GRANDEES OF THE
GRAND LARCENY.

I MEAN,
LOOK AT
THIS GUEST
LIST...



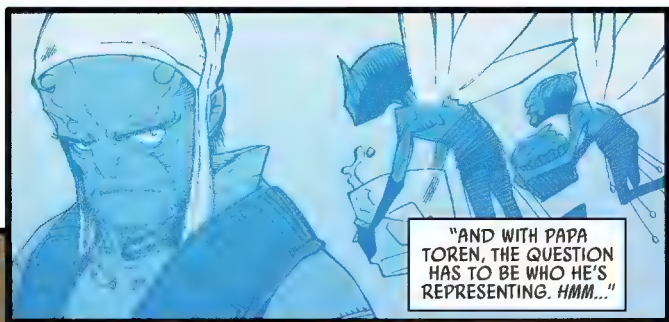
"THE CYBAN FRONT IS HERE.
IF THEY'RE STILL WORKING
WITH THE GOTRA, IT MEANS
I MUST BE BACK IN THEIR
GOOD DATABANKS...

"AND THE SHADOW UNIVERSITY
WERE NEVER GOING TO HOLD A
GRUDGE WHEN THERE WERE
ANCIENT ARTIFACTS ON THE LINE.



"THE EZARAA ARE NO
SURPRISE, OF COURSE.
IF YOU PROMISED THEM
A NEW BLASTER, THEY'LL
BE THERE...

"...BUT IT TAKES
SOMETHING SPECIAL TO
GET THOMAS TOOV OUT
OF HIS STASIS DOME.



"AND WITH PAPA
TOREN, THE QUESTION
HAS TO BE WHO HE'S
REPRESENTING. MMM..."



THERE HASN'T
BEEN THIS MANY
WANTED PERSONAGES IN
THE SAME ROOM SINCE
JABBA'S FIRST
WEDDING...



SO, LET'S
GET THE
GLITZ ON...

"...BEFORE
SOMEONE
STAINS THE
FURNISHINGS."

<I WOULD
NOT THINK THE PRIDE
HAS ENOUGH CAPITAL
LEFT TO PLAY IN THIS
COMPANY...?>*

I'M NOT
SURPRISED TO
SEE YOU HERE,
SUTHA.

DOING
JABBA'S ODD
JOBS IS ALL
YOU'VE EVER
DONE.

*TRANSLATED
FROM HUTTESE.

<I HAVE
BEEN BUSY.>

<YOUR
FATHER'S BONES ARE
NOW A FINE ORNAMENT
FOR THE GREAT
JABBA.>

YOU KNOW,
THERE'S ONLY ONE
THING I DON'T LIKE
ABOUT SLITTING
OPEN A HUTT...

A TARGET
THAT BIG IS
JUST WAY TOO
EASY.

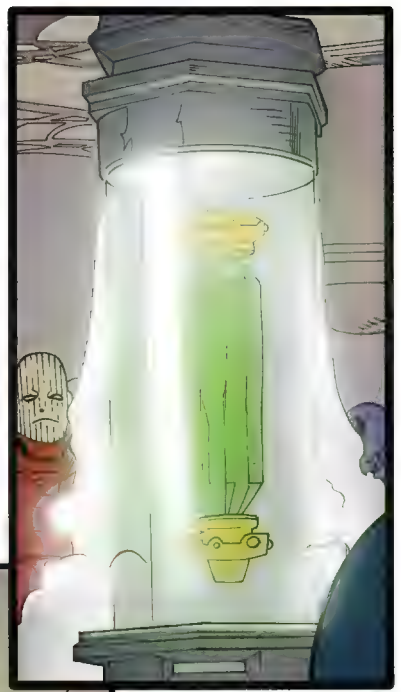
HEY,
YONAK. TAKE
IT DOWN A
GEAR.

AND SAY
WHAT YOU
LIKE ABOUT
SUTHA...



...AT
LEAST HE'S
WEARING HIS
SHINIES.

WE DID
SAY THERE
WAS A DRESS
CODE.





NOW, I'M SURE SOME OF YOU ARE ONLY HERE AS YOU CAN'T RESIST ANY PARTY INVITATION, AND HAVEN'T READ THE TECH SPECS I SENT OVER, SO LET'S RECAP THE BASICS...

IN SHORT, THIS IS A FUNCTIONING A.I. COPY OF A LONG-DEAD JEDI KNIGHT.



MOST OBVIOUSLY--IT'S OF USE AS A MODEL FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE FINDING THIS WHOLE "MORTALITY" THING DESPERATELY ANNOYING.

THERE'S OBVIOUS BUGS, BUT THIS IS STRONG, ROBUST TECH THAT DATES FROM WELL BEYOND THE START OF THE REPUBLIC. THERE'S NOTHING WORSE FOR YOUR PITCH AT ETERNITY TO BURN OUT AFTER A FEW THOUSANDS YEARS, RIGHT?



THIS IS ALSO A VERY SPECIFIC INTELLIGENCE. IT'S A JEDI. AN ANCIENT JEDI. IT KNOWS STUFF THAT EVERYONE'S LONG FORGOTTEN.

THIS IS PRICELESS DATA. WHO KNOWS WHAT ELSE HE KNOWS? IT IS A HUGE IMPORTANT FIND.



AS A WEAPON PROJECT, IT'S A TECHNOPATH.

BLEEP!

NO, BEETEE. YOU'RE A PSYCHOPATH.



IF UNLEASHED, IT CAN CONTROL ANY TECHNOLOGICAL BODY IN THE AREA. THE MILITARY USES ARE EASY TO COMPREHEND.

BEST OF ALL, I'VE WORKED OUT HOW TO CONTROL IT. THE BESPOKE TECHNOLOGY THAT'S PREVENTING RUR FROM MURDERING US ALL IS ALSO INCLUDED WITH YOUR BIDS!



AM I NOT GENEROUS?

STATEMENT: TECHNOPATHY IS IMPOSSIBLE.







AND.

YOU'VE COVERED A PLACE WHERE YOU'RE KEEPING A TECHNOGRAPH WITH AUTOMATED GUNS!

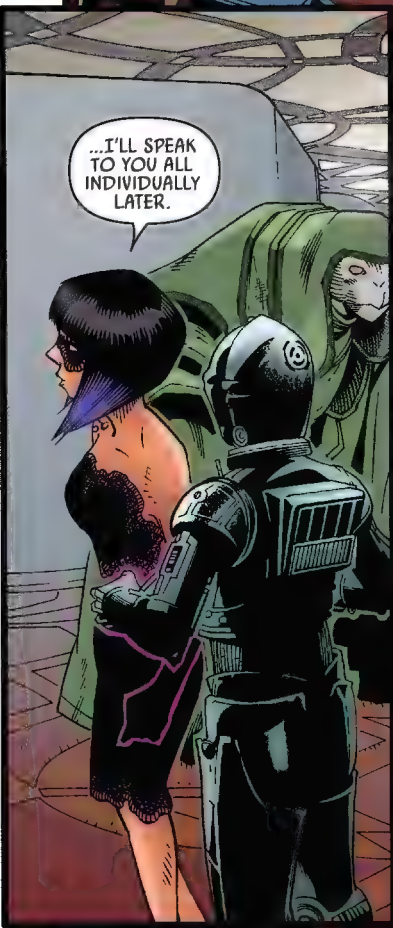
IS "CRAZY" OR "IRRESPONSIBLE" YOUR MIDDLE NAME?



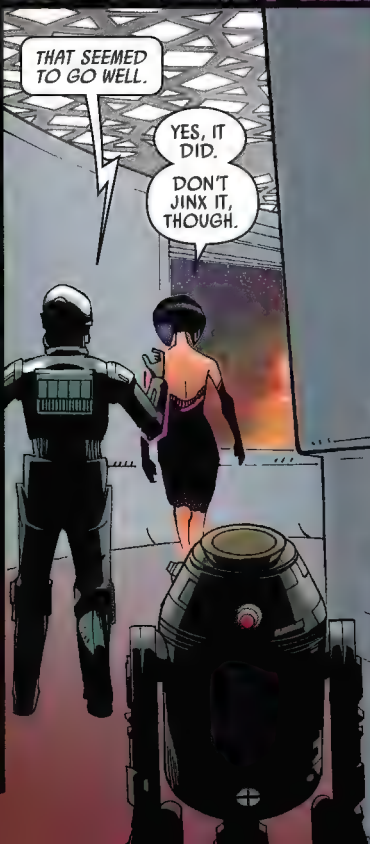
ALL THIS IS A
GOOD EXAMPLE OF
HOW COMPLETELY
SURE I AM OF MY
CONTROL SYSTEM
WORKING.



OKAY,
EVERYONE. CHILL,
CHAT, TRY NOT TO
MURDER ONE ANOTHER,
AND WORK OUT EXACTLY
HOW MUCH YOU'RE
WILLING TO PAY
FOR THIS...



...I'LL SPEAK
TO YOU ALL
INDIVIDUALLY
LATER.

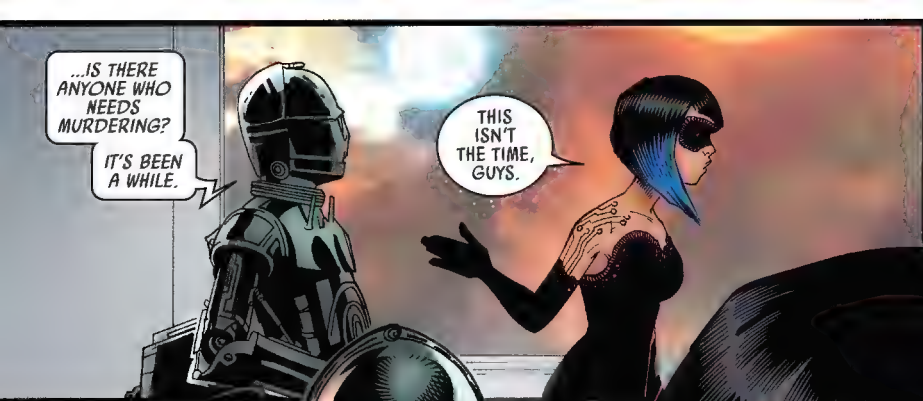


THAT SEEMED
TO GO WELL.

YES, IT
DID.
DON'T JINK IT,
THOUGH.



SO, MASTER
APHRA...



...IS THERE ANYONE WHO NEEDS MURDERING?

IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

THIS ISN'T THE TIME, GUYS.



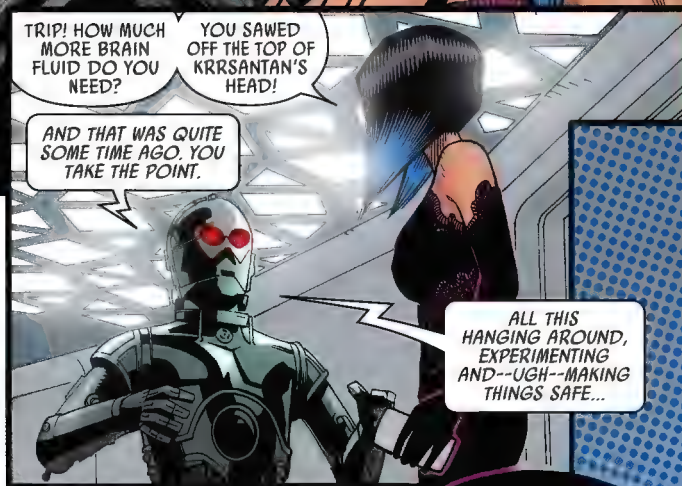
NO, MASTER APHRA. IT IS NEVER THE TIME.

OUR RECENT ADVENTURES HAVE LEANED TOWARD THE CEREBRAL RATHER THAN THE DRAINING OF CEREBRAL FLUID.

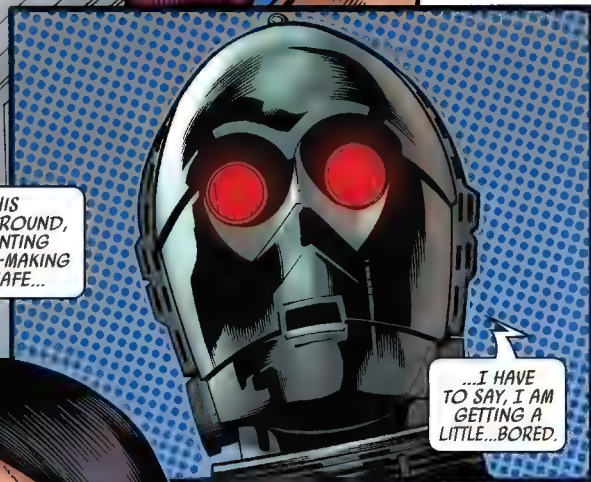
TRIP! HOW MUCH MORE BRAIN FLUID DO YOU NEED?

YOU SAWED OFF THE TOP OF KRRSANTAN'S HEAD!

AND THAT WAS QUITE SOME TIME AGO. YOU TAKE THE POINT.



ALL THIS HANGING AROUND, EXPERIMENTING AND--UGH--MAKING THINGS SAFE...



...I HAVE TO SAY, I AM GETTING A LITTLE...BORED.





OKAY. I PROMISE YOU. AFTER ALL THIS IS OVER, WE'LL SORT SOMETHING OUT. HEY, MAYBE EVEN THOSE UPGRADES WE WERE TALKING ABOUT.

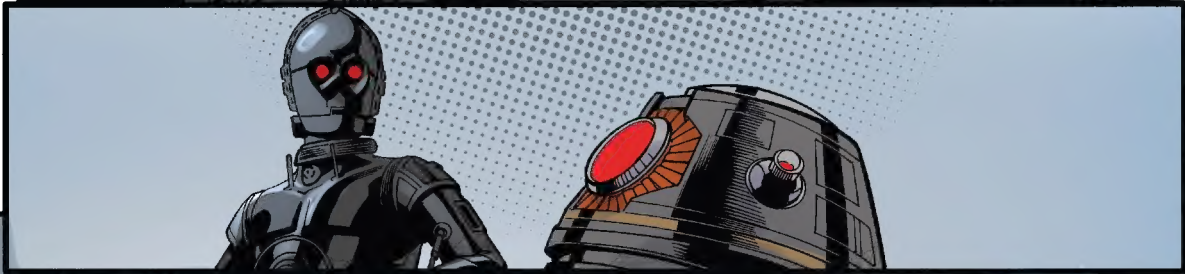
BUT UNTIL THEN, NO MURDER AT ALL.

ACTUALLY... ONLY ON EXPRESS ORDERS.

UNDERSTOOD. I WILL NOT MURDER ANYONE UNLESS MY MASTER EXPLICITLY TELLS ME.

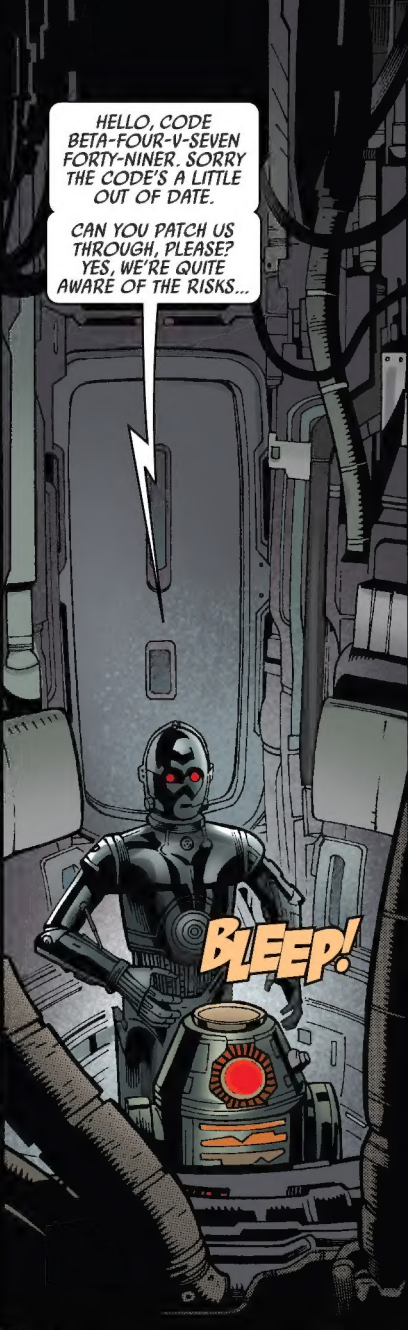


YOU GOT IT.



♪ LOOPHOLE, LOOPHOLE, LOOOOOOPHOLE!





HELLO, CODE
BETA-FOUR-V-SEVEN
FORTY-NINER. SORRY
THE CODE'S A LITTLE
OUT OF DATE.

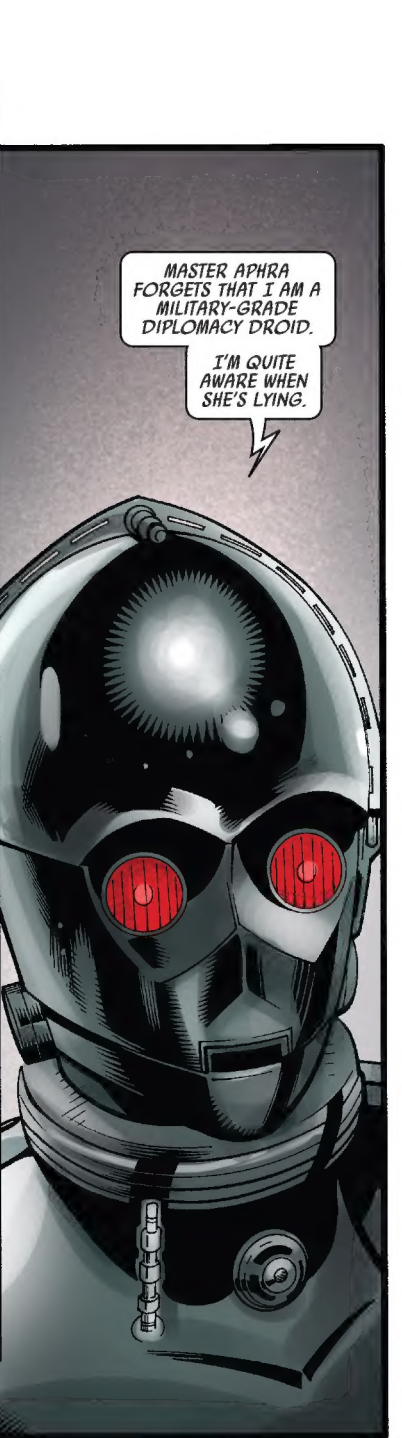
CAN YOU PATCH US
THROUGH, PLEASE?
YES, WE'RE QUITE
AWARE OF THE RISKS...

BLEEP!



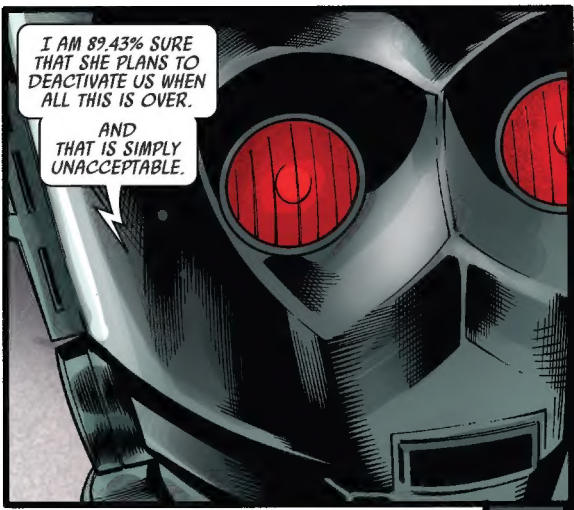
YES, BEETEE.
I AGREE.

THIS IS SELF-
DEFENSE.



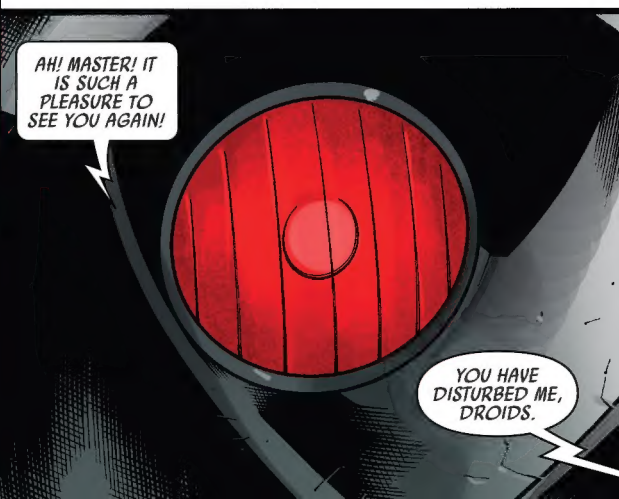
MASTER APHRA
FORGETS THAT I AM A
MILITARY-GRADE
DIPLOMACY DROID.

I'M QUITE
AWARE WHEN
SHE'S LYING.



I AM 89.43% SURE
THAT SHE PLANS TO
DEACTIVATE US WHEN
ALL THIS IS OVER.

AND
THAT IS SIMPLY
UNACCEPTABLE.



AH! MASTER! IT
IS SUCH A
PLEASURE TO
SEE YOU AGAIN!

YOU HAVE
DISTURBED ME,
DROIDS.



I HOPE THIS
WARRANTS MY
ATTENTION.

DOCTOR APHRA **NEXT ISSUE:**



A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away
is a lot easier to get to than you think –
and we want to hear from you!
Write us at StarWars@Marvel.com if
you want to make it onto a future letters
page. Don't forget to mark the letter
"OK TO PRINT."